



Fabric Finds in Portland

BY CHRISTINE RULLI

Portland, Oregon is a small city bursting with creativity. Widely recognized for its thriving food and drink culture and “outdoorsy” locals, the city also abounds with visual and performing arts and has a rich appreciation for handcrafted goods of all types.

In accordance with the drizzly local climate, Portland’s garment scene is strongly oriented toward performance and outdoor clothing, and has spawned industry giants such as Jantzen, White Stag, Pendleton, and Columbia Sportswear. The Portland area is also the “silicon valley” of the sport shoe industry, home to the US headquarters of Adidas and the world headquarters of Nike (which originated two hours south of Portland, at the University of Oregon track department).

But don’t think performance gear is all you’ll find here—while Portland has plenty to offer for outerwear enthusiasts, its strong tradition of home sewing and craft makes it a gold mine for discerning fabric shoppers of all kinds. In addition to well-curated local boutiques, you’ll find super-sized independent stores packed with treasures, an assortment of niche outlets, and even top-notch designer textiles. An extra perk: no sales tax in Oregon!

Button Emporium & Ribbonry

1016 SW Taylor Street

Portland, OR 97205

(503) 228-6372

buttonemporium.com

Hours: Tuesday through Friday

10:30am to 5:30pm;

Saturday 11am to 3pm

Located right in the heart of downtown, the Button Emporium and Ribbonry is an eclectic world filled with petite treasures. They have thousands of buttons to choose from, whether you favor heirloom sewing, period costume re-cre-

ation, or just adding a fine, personal touch to new or existing garments. Take a moment to peruse their button gallery full of precious metals, porcelain, bone, hand-etched natural shells, wood, antique Satsuma buttons from Japan, Damascene buttons from Spain, and elegant cameos. They also carry some fabrics and fine laces, as well as a huge supply of embroidery silks, European jacquard trims, and beautiful ribbons both classic and contemporary. You’ll receive highly personalized service from owners Marvis and Keith, who make a

mission of uniting these gems with the right owner. Purchase or bring your own fabric and these artists will painstakingly help you to select the ideal buttons and trims. Marvis also prides herself on teaching shoppers how to use buttons and embellishments to breathe fresh life into an old garment or thrift store purchase. This shop is a must for all crafters, sewers, and quilters.

Rose City Textiles

2515 NW Nicolai Street

Portland, OR 97210

(503) 224-5666

fabricline.com

Hours: Monday through Friday

9am to 5pm;

Saturday 10am to 4pm

Rose City Textiles, located in the industrial section of northwest Portland, has been in business for over 30 years and specializes in quality outerwear and activewear fabrics. The pride and joy of this store is a huge—no, really huge—selection of performance and all-weather fabrics, including nylon lycra®, waxed cottons, moisture-wicking jersey, poly-microfibers, fleece, ripstop, neoprene, and on and on. Environmentally conscious crafters will appreciate the selection of organic and recycled fibers. They even carry notions and trims





Bolt

to finish your project, including silicone trim, reflective tape, and specialty zippers in reflective, water-resistant, and reversible-coil varieties. The staff is knowledgeable and enthusiastic about their unique offerings, and they'll send swatches anywhere in the US and Canada within 48 hours. Goods are offered at both retail and wholesale prices, depending on how much you need.

Bolt
2136 NE Alberta Street
Portland, OR 97211
(503) 287-BOLT
boltneighborhood.com
Hours: Monday through Friday
10am to 6pm;
Saturday 10am to 5pm;
Sunday 11am to 4pm

This fresh, contemporary Alberta Arts District shop packs a lot of punch for a small store. Bolt offers a highly curated selection of fabrics, notions, books, patterns, and supplies "that will bring your imagination to life in cloth and stitches." The fabrics are attractively displayed on wooden shelves, and the knowledgeable staff will help guide you through selecting just the right items for your project. Bolt feels like a neighborhood shop, but the quality offerings also make it a destination for those looking for something special.

The Whole 9 Yards
1820 East Burnside Street
Portland, OR 97214
(503) 223-2880
w9yards.com

Hours: Monday through Friday
10am to 6pm;
Saturday 10am to 5pm

Stop in here for an inspiring collection of interior decorating fabrics, trims, and custom furniture. They stock over a thousand fabrics including chenilles, tapestries, jacquards, silks, sheers, and velvets, and also offer special orders from their collection of fabric samples. You'll be blown away by the variety of their whimsical and classical trims and tassels. The store features an in-house workroom, and you can have furniture built from scratch. The parking lot is a convenient bonus! View their blog and website for sample projects that show off the ingenuity of their design department.

Cool Cottons
2417 SE Hawthorne Boulevard
Portland, OR 97214
(503) 232-0417
coolcottons.biz
Hours: Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
10am to 6pm;
Thursday 12pm to 8pm;
Sunday 12pm to 5pm.

Thread your way south to the vibrant Hawthorne District and you'll find Cool Cottons, an independent fabric boutique housed in a charming 1911 home. The focus here is on modern prints in bold shades, suitable for quilting, crafting, sewing, and collecting. Some of their favorite designers are Alexander Henry, Art Gallery, Birch Organics, Cloud 9 Organics, Free Spirit, Kokka, Michael Miller, Moda, Robert Kaufman and Westminster Fabrics. They are especially proud of their selection of Japanese cotton imports. You'll find whimsical Matryoshka doll prints, multiple "Frieda" patterns, an assortment of seaside-themed goods, vintage camping prints, architectural designs, and even "pin-ups." Even if you come in without a project in mind, you may find yourself stocking up because the prints they carry are so darn cool! If you're browsing from afar, viewing their "new arrivals" page will stimulate your creativity while bringing a smile to your face. This colorful fabric destination is very well organized and has personable staff.

Josephine's Dry Goods
3050 SE Division Street
Portland, OR 97202
(503) 224-4202
www.josephinesdrygoods.com
Hours: Monday through Saturday
11am to 6pm;
Sunday 12pm to 5pm

Portland sewers mourned when this downtown institution shut its doors in 2013. Fortunately for connoisseurs of fine garment fabrics, it has now reopened in a bright, compact space on SE Division. New owners Bini and Dana Leach have worked with Judith Head, previous owner of some 37 years, to ensure that the new location continues in the top-tier tradition of the old. Look for elegant suiting fabrics in wool and cashmere, printed and textured silks, linens, luxury blends, Japanese selvage denim, and a spectacular selection from Liberty of London. Prices can be formidable, but you're paying for the best. Handwritten labels indicate the fiber content and width as well as the original designer where appropriate. You'll also find a select assortment of buttons and trims and high-quality notions from Merchant and Mills.



DESTINATION SHOPPING

Mill End

9701 SE McLoughlin Boulevard
Portland, OR 97222
(503) 786-1234
millendstore.com

Hours: Monday through Friday
9:30am to 6pm;
Saturday 9:30am to 5:30pm;
Sunday 12pm to 5pm

This flagship store has everything sewists dream of. Mill End began as a worsted wool knitting mill in 1918 and sold yarn. This third-generation family-owned business now offers an enormous selection of unique and value-priced fabrics. Shop this spacious store for an in-depth selection of bridal, costume, and fashion fabrics, including a full array of silks, wools, knits, cottons, broadcloth, bottom weights, corduroy, muslin, felt, and embellished fabrics. They have a great selection of water-proof and water-repellent fabrics for outerwear, and a smattering of other technical fabrics. In the annex area you'll find value-priced flat fold fabrics in quantities of five yards or less. Their home decorating department is filled with unique textiles, notions, pillows, tassels, trims, and embellishments.

Mill End's long-standing relationship with its vendors and manufacturers allows them to provide special values and one-of-a-kind treasures. Their employees have a "passion for fabric" and are knowledgeable about their inventory. Mill End also offers Saturday demos featuring short projects such as chair upholstery or chiffon scarves with hand-rolled hems. Be prepared to spend some time in this store, and don't hurry the process. Sign up for their mailing list to get special sale notices!

Pendleton Woolen Mill Store
8850 SE McLoughlin Boulevard
Portland, OR 97222
(503) 535-5786

woolenmillstore.com

Hours: Monday through
Saturday 10am to 5:30pm;
Sunday 11am to 4pm

Down the street from Mill End, stop into the Pendleton Woolen Mill Store for a journey back into history. Pendleton has produced woolen products for over 150 years, and the iconic wool jacquards inspired by Native American heritage date back more than a century. Today the sixth generation descendants of founder Thomas Kay are still running the operation, which still mills its woolens in Pendleton, Oregon and Washougal, Washington using time-honored manufacturing methods.

The store offers first quality Pendleton fabrics, yarns, remnants, and notions for sewing and crafting in vibrant colors and patterns. Over 200 fabrics on the roll include blanket weight fabric, coating, flannel, worsteds, gabardine, Pendleton Eco-Wise® wool, herringbone, houndstooth, jacquard patterns, melton, menswear and novelty suiting, plaids, and tweeds. Printed towels, pillows, and other home décor items are

also available. Bins filled with "mill waste" are a special treat: "wooly worms" left over from making blankets, selvages, fabric strips, and yarns offered by the pound, ideal for crafts, creative trims, and embellishments. They even offer their vintage wooden bobbins!

If you have the opportunity, visit Pendleton's Mill Store in Washougal, Washington and take a 45-minute behind-the-scenes mill tour to view their manufacturing process. Call the store at (360) 835-1118 for more information or to reserve your tour.

Fabric Depot

700 SE 122nd Avenue
Portland OR 97233
(503) 252-9530
fabricdepot.com

Hours: Monday through
Saturday 9am to 9pm;
Sunday 10am to 7pm

Fabric Depot is one of the largest, most complete locally and independently owned fabric stores in the US. They have over 20,000 fabrics in over 40,000 square feet of retail space, ensuring a deep selection for almost every fabric

category imaginable. Denim, shirts, suits, and fashion knits are all well represented, including a few designer treasures. If you're looking to plan a luxurious wedding, make a knock-out belly dance outfit, or sew up the best Halloween costume west of the Rockies, this is your place. Fabric Depot carries one of the largest selections of imported quality laces, rhinestone trims, tulle, sequined fabrics and accessories, and special occasion fabrics under any single roof anywhere. They also have a huge selection of home dec, vinyls, oilcloth, vintage toweling, activewear knits, faux furs, and more. A comprehensive selection of buttons, elastics, interfacings, trims, and embellishments, plus an entire wall of notions, will take care of all the finishing touches. If you visit during the warmer months, the outdoor clearance sale has not-to-be-missed bargains on fabric and notions. Feel free to invite all your sewing friends, as their spacious parking lot includes spots for RVs and buses. You'll want to bring an extra suitcase, or be prepared to ship your haul home. ✂

SEWING SCHOOLS AND STUDIOS

Portland is the place to be if you're looking to expand your skills, try new tools, and draw on the wisdom of a rich local sewing community. There's something for every sewing level, from beginners to aspiring professionals.

The famous **Palmer/Pletsch School of Sewing**, housed in Fabric Depot's spacious sewing room, offers classes in sewing, fitting, quilting, and more for beginning through advanced sewers. palmerpletschsewing.com

Modern Domestic, located just blocks from Bolt on NE Alberta, offers garment sewing and quilting classes for a range of skill levels. Classes include the use of their sewing studio, fully stocked with Bernina machines (which they also sell). modern domesticpdx.com

Portland Sewing, located in the Hollywood district of northeast Portland, offers fashion sewing classes and camps for children and adults, including beginner sessions and more advanced classes on specific topics (swim and activewear, couture jackets, leather, corsetry, patternmaking, etc.). If you're looking to break into the industry, they also offer classes in design, fashion business, and industrial tools and techniques. portlandsewing.com

Rose City Textiles is home to the **Portland Apparel Development Co-op**, which offers by-the-hour industrial sewing machines that can accommodate single sewers or even small manufacturing, along with state-of-the-art tools for pattern development, printing, and embroidery. If you need a little help getting started, they also offer classes and certification on the equipment. portlandappareldevelopmentcoop.com



Whole 9 Yards



Cool Cottons



Josephine's Dry Goods



Pendleton Woolen Mill Store



Mill End



Fabric Depot

Shopping in Portland, OR



bolt
Neighborhood Fabric Boutique

Find something refreshing, unexpected and beautiful

2136 NE Alberta St., Portland, OR 97211
www.BoltFabricBoutique.com



SHOP ONLINE
www.fabricdepot.com

FABRIC DEPOT
PORTLAND OREGON

FASHION FABRICS & MORE
IN OUR RETAIL STORE

503-252-9530
700 SE 122ND AVE
PORTLAND, OR 97233



JOSEPHINE'S
DRY GOODS

We are pleased to announce that Josephine's has re-opened in SE Portland!

The dedication to high quality apparel fabrics has not changed. Our new inventory includes an amazing selection of *Liberty of London Art Fabrics*

3050 SE Division Street, Suite 165, Portland Ore. 97202
503-224-4202 www.Josephinesdrygoods.com

Come visit us and be inspired.



Portland's first choice for quality fabric since 1918

Mill End Store

Attention Fabric Fashionistas!

We've got it all, whether it's Wool, Faux Fur, Fine Cottons, Silk, Velvet, Home Decorating & Quilting Fabrics Yarns + Sewing Notions.

OPEN DAILY • SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOME
PORTLAND: 9701 SE McLoughlin • 503/786-1234



MODERN DOMESTIC

BERNINA® EXCELLENCE DEALER
OPEN SEWING STUDIO
TOOLS & CLASSES
FABRIC

(503) 808-9910
1408 NE ALBERTA STREET
PORTLAND, OR 97211
MODERNDOMESTICPDX.COM



PENDLETON WOOLEN MILL STORE

Iconic fabrics from our NW mills: wool tartans, jacquards, mill selvage & more.

WARRANTED TO BE A
PENDLETON®
PENDLETON WOOLEN MILLS
SINCE 1863

pendleton-usa.com

8500 SE McLoughlin Blvd, Portland
Phone orders welcome • Call toll free (866) 865-9285
thewoolenmillstore.blogspot.com



RCT FABRICS

We Specialize in Performance Fabrics & Notions, Activewear Sportswear & Outerwear.

www.Fabricline.com
2515 NW Nicolai Portland Or 97210

Labels: Pack Cloth Cordura, Team Sports, Stretch Wovens, Reflective Tapes, RCT fabrics, Fleece, Lycra, Waterproof Breathable, Wickaway Knits, MESH, Cord Locks, CAMO, LYCRA PRINTS, SOFTSHELL, TECH.



THE WHOLE 9 YARDS

Extraordinary interior fabrics For every budget

1820 E BURNSIDE ST
PORTLAND OR
503 223-2880
WWW.W9YARDS.COM